NEWS — 2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

Incumbents, newcomers appear on certified list after nomination deadline

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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It's official. Winchester now has its list of candidates for the 2026 town election. WINCHESTER NEWS FILE PHOTO

Several incumbents and first-time candidates appear on the Town posted list of certified nomination papers for the 2026 Winchester

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election following the Jan. 30 filing deadline, according to a document displayed at Town Hall.

The list reflects nomination papers that were pulled, returned and later certified, with some certifications dated in the days immediately after the deadline.

Among incumbents seeking re-election, Philip Frattaroli has pulled papers for another one-year term as town moderator. Michelle Prior, the incumbent Select Board member whose three-year seat is on the ballot, is now in a contested race with Shamus Brady who has also returned papers and both are listed as certified.

Incumbents Richard Michienzi, chair of the Board of Assessors, and Dr. Gregory Sawicki, chair of the Board of Health, are both listed as having pulled and returned papers for their respective three-year terms.

On the Planning Board, incumbents Keri Layton and Nicholas Rossettos are seeking re-election to two available three-year seats. They are joined on the list by Amy Beliveau, who would be a newcomer to the board, if elected.

The School Committee race includes John Bellaire and Heather von Mering, neither of whom currently holds the seat up for election. The three-year position is presently held by incumbent Michelle Bergstrom, who, as of the earlier filing deadline, had not pulled papers.

New candidates also appear in races without incumbent filers. Katherine Ho is listed as a candidate for one of two three-year seats on the Board of Library Trustees, currently held by Angela Murdough and Victoria Garcia-Albea, neither of whom is listed as having pulled papers.

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Brenda Kleschinsky is listed as a candidate for a one-year term on the Housing Authority, another race in which no incumbent had filed as of the deadline.

Nomination papers were due by noon Jan. 30. Certification dates reflect the clerk's verification of signatures and do not necessarily indicate when papers were submitted. The annual town election is scheduled for March 21.

For those planning to vote, key deadlines include March 11, 2026, to register, 5 p.m. March 16, 2026, to request a mail-in ballot and noon March 20, 2026, to apply for an absentee ballot.

Voting in the 2026 town election

Voters who will be out of town on Election Day, Saturday, March 21, 2026, or who have a disability may cast absentee ballots in the Town Clerk's Office beginning Monday, March 2. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon Friday, March 20, 2026.

Vote-by-mail applications are being accepted and will be processed upon receipt.

In-person early voting begins Saturday, March 14, in the Winchester Room at Town Hall, first floor, 71 Mount Vernon St.

Early voting schedule (in person):
— Saturday, March 14: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Winchester Room, Town Hall (first floor)
— Monday, March 16: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Winchester Room, Town Hall (first floor)
— Tuesday, March 17: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Winchester Room, Town Hall (first

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floor)
— Wednesday, March 18: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Winchester Room, Town Hall (first floor)— Thursday, March 19: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Winchester Room, Town Hall (first floor)
— Friday, March 20: 8 a.m.-noon, Winchester Room, Town Hall (first floor)

Questions should go to Town Clerk MaryEllen Marshall at 781-721-7130 or mmarshall@winchester.us.

Will Dowd is a Massachusetts journalist who covers municipal government and community life for Winchester News. He previously co-founded the Marblehead Current and now runs The Marblehead Independent, a reader-funded digital newsroom.

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The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Winchester Select Board approves overnight parking pilot, permit fees increased

The Winchester Select Board on Feb. 23 approved an overnight parking pilot, raised building permit fees for the first time since 2021, adopted the 2026 outdoor dining policy and directed the town manager to examine reinvesting downtown-generated revenue into town center improvements. The board voted unanimously to implement the overnight

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‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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